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Sai Herthe

Not very long ago, to most Tellurians, Aristasia was explained as a way to re-cultivate a healthy image-sphere by not returning to the ancient past but to something akin to a feminine version of the immediately accessible past prior to the Tellurian Eclipse. Within that context, the cultures of the seven nations were compared with cultural phenomena during several decades of the early 20th century in Telluria. For the sake of teaching, that analogy was adequate for the time preceding Operation Bridgehead.

Since Operation Bridgehead, however, a clearer picture has been publicly formulated of what Aristasia is, and the "planet" on which it is located. Most of us are now aware that Aristasia is located on a planet named Sai Herthe, which in turn is located in a solar system that is very similar, or at least analogous, to the one in which Telluria exists.

The explanation of Aristasia as a way to re-cultivate a healthy image-sphere was a nice, non-contentious one for outlanders. It was adopted by Miss Alice Lucy Trent in *The Feminine Universe* largely because Aristasia was not the main subject of the book. It has been used at various times.

However, for a very long time, real Aristasians-in-Telluria have known that their Motherland was much more than a convenient mental conceit. As time has gone by we have been privileged to have more and more knowledge of, and contact with, the True Raihir.

The very precise definition of Sai Herthe as a planet has been made in such fictional works as *The Flight of the Silver Vixen*. This may be said to be at the opposite extreme from the "mental conceit" explanation.

The cautious view of these matters bids us remember, as all tradition teaches, that the physical world is only a tiny part of the whole of manifestation. Naturally, maid has always pictured other levels of reality in terms of the physical world she knows. This is what is happening in legends and "fairy tales" which depict spiritual realities in terms of human locations and activities.

One is not saying that there is *not* a planet called Sai Herthe

existing on the precise same plane of physical reality as our own. There may be. But if there were not, those are still the terms in which we should be inclined to see it, because they are the only terms we can fully understand.

Discussion of the Nature of Sai Herthe

Lady Aquila wrote:

To the West of our map it has long been held that there lie the Isles of the Blessed and the Jeweled Paradise of the Daughter. It has been considered impious to sail very far beyond the Westrenne shores. Probably one could in fact circumnavigate the globe, and no doubt this prohibition constitutes something of a confusion of Sacred Geography with material geography and is one of the few really "pre-modern" ideas to continue to prevail in the West.

There may, however, be a profound reason for this. The reader cannot by now be unaware that East and West have a symbolic (and therefore ritual) significance beyond their merely spatial reference (or rather because of it, for even the ignorant never cease in reality to move in sacred space). The opening of the "West beyond the West" in Telluria has gone hand in hand with the Rationalist Revolution, and it may be that one is the geographical equivalent and ritual enactment of the other.

However that may be, the further reaches of the Golden Sea are held to be sacred and inviolable, and of the very few who have ever sailed thither, none has returned to tell the tale - nor ever set out with the intention of returning.

Lhi Raya Chancandre Aquitaine replied:

With all respect to my lady (and I have vast respect for her wonderful exposition), this may be one point in which she is wrong. It may indeed *not* be possible to circumnavigate Sai Herthe. The Isles of the Blessed may actually lie to the West, for this realm may not be a physical planet and it may occupy Sacred Space in a more direct sense than Telluria does.

I do not say that this *is* the case, but it is quite possible.

Again, the extent to which Sai Herthe is a "parallel world" to Telluria is something that has been debated recently: certainly it is parallel in some respects, but some of the parallel phenomena may actually be "translations" of phenomena in the Motherland into terms that make sense in Telluria. In this respect the term "imaginative" may not be entirely misplaced, but it should not be used in the vulgar late-Tellurian sense of "non-existent".

When I suggest that my Lady Aquila may be "wrong", I use

the term is a very particular sense. Regarding Sai Herthe as a physical planet is entirely valid for fictional purposes and may well be the best way for us to visualise the Motherland. I would only warn against taking this with the sort of literalism that makes Biblical "fundamentalists" declare that every word of the Bible is literally (i.e. in point of gross physical fact) true.

Please be assured that I am not for one moment questioning the existence of the True Raihir which claims all my loyalty. I am merely warning against the tendency to place all things on the plane of physical matter.

We may learn more about all this as time passes. We may not. If we do not, we should rest content, like good children, that we have been told what we need to know.

Having said all this, it will be clear that I would regard a physical description of the solar system in which Sai Herthe lies as premature. That she occupies a solar system is clear, in that she has a representation of the Supernal Sun which gives her light and representations of the other six Great Janyati, even as we have our Sun and six other visible planets. Whether these are in fact physical orbs or whether they take on forms appropriate to another dimension of being we cannot say for sure.

It is natural and proper for us to picture them in physical forms analogous to those of our own existence. This we should continue to do while bearing in mind that precise physicalities may not be exactly literal, and also understanding that they are no whit less real for that.

See Also

Sai Herthe's Day

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